

Redistricting

Roland G Ley <rgley@comcast.net>
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to RedistrictingCommittee, Representative

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Redistricting should be no problem at all if the IL Supreme Court would just follow the Constitution. Article IV. Section 3.a. of the Illinois Constitution states, "Legislative Districts shall be compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population. Representative Districts shall be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population". It also states in the last paragraph of Article IV. Section 3. "The Supreme Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over actions concerning redistricting the House and Senate, which shall be initiated in the name of the People of the State by the Attorney General." Neither the Supreme Court nor anyone else seems to know what the word "compact" means nor is willing to define it in a clear simple way to eliminate gerrymandering by either political party once and for all.

One simple suggestion is to amend Article IV. Section 3.a. of the constitution to say, "Compact, for this purpose, shall mean that the longest straight line that can be drawn between two borders in each district shall not be more than three (or two) times the length of the shortest straight line that can be drawn between two borders in each district and that also crosses the above referred to longest line in each district."

Problem solved.

Roland G. Ley
1225 Luther Lane. Unit 123
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-846-6318